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## DIOCESAN CHURCH SOCIETY.

## OCCASIONAL PAPER.

## No. II.

**A Sketch of the work of the Church in the Diocese of Fredericton. A. D. 1845-1879.**

THE first Bishop of Fredericton was consecrated in the Chapel of Lambeth Palace on May 4th, 1845, and on St. Barnabas' Day he took possession of the See, and was installed in Christ Church, Fredericton.

At that time a self-sustaining Parish was not to be found in the Diocese. Every Mission depended, more or less, on the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, the grants made by the Diocesan Church Society for Missionary visits only amounting to £60.

There were 28 Clergy, 22 Missions, and 45 Churches and Chapels. At the present time there are 70 Clergy, 69 Missions, and 115 Churches and Chapels; shewing an increase in the thirty-four years of 42 Clergy, 47 Missions, and 70 Churches and Chapels. Thirteen Parishes and Missions are now maintained without aid from any Society, while Chatham, Dorchester, Rothesay, and Woodstock, though still receiving aid from the D. C. S., are really self supporting, as they contribute more to the Society than they receive. Besides these, 52 Missions are supplied with regular services, and are in part sustained by grants from the D. C. S. All such grants being conditional upon a certain contribution by the Mission itself.

In 1845 the grant from the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel to this Diocese was £4300 stg. After the arrival of the Bishop the amount was somewhat larger. From 1848 to 1854 it was not less than £5000, and in 1854 it reached £5348, or about \$26,000. This year, 1879, it is £2100, or about \$10,000.

It is interesting and most encouraging to note how the much greater work of the present is sustained with much less assistance from the Venerable Society which in past years has done so much for this Diocese. The advance towards self support has been steadily maintained each year since 1847, when the D. C. S. began to supply the place of the S. P. G. in assisting Missions which, either because of their recent origin or the poverty of the people, required external aid. Up to this time, the work of the D. C. S. had been chiefly to aid in building Churches and the distribution of books purchased from the S. P. C. K. In this year, "aid to new and poor Missions" was added to its objects, and under this all the Missionary work of the Diocese has since been carried on.



### FIRST MISSIONARY GRANTS OF D. C. S. IN 1847.

The first grants were to the Parishes of Queensbury and Prince William in the County of York, and Lancaster and Simonds in the County of Saint John; and with these the Home Mission work of the Church of England in the Diocese of Fredericton may be said to have commenced.

In 1849, £630 was granted towards the maintenance of thirteen Missionaries,—not quite \$200 each. At this time, and indeed up to 1869, these grants were not conditional upon any fixed contribution from the people, and it is to be feared that many of the Missionaries received little or nothing from those to whom they ministered. They were almost entirely dependent upon the grant received through the D. C. S. One, with a wife and family, actually lived—or rather starved—on \$400 a year, going many miles weekly on foot to one of the stations which he served. Another, when called upon for a statement of what he had received during the year, replied, that beyond the grant of \$490, he had received from his people “a little hay and some oats.”

### SALARIES IN 1869.

The average Salary in the forty Missions maintained in 1869 did not exceed \$625. Now, in the fifty-six Missions aided by the D. C. S., it is \$730. There are also thirty-two Parsonages in these Missions. Until 1869 the maintenance of the Home Mission work of the Diocese was vested in the General Committee, who, on the first day of meeting each year, appointed a sub-Committee to prepare and submit a schedule of grants for the ensuing year. As the number of Missions increased, it was found quite impossible for a Committee, meeting only once a year for a few hours, to manage the work satisfactorily. The information and the time at their disposal was far too limited; and after their Report had been adopted, no new work could be undertaken for which a grant was required, and no alteration, however necessary, could be made for a year.

### THE BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS.

Since 1869, the care of this work has been entrusted to the Board of Home Missions, which is annually elected by the General Committee. Every Churchman in the Diocese who is a subscriber to the D. C. S. has a voice, through his chosen representatives, in the selection of this Board each year, and every member of the General Committee is eligible for a seat at this Board. The Bishop of the Diocese is *ex officio* Chairman. Every act of this Board is submitted to the General Committee in a Report at the Annual Meeting, so that it may be fairly claimed that the work of this Board is the work of the Church. Every grant made is strictly conditional upon the payment by the Mission receiving aid of such a sum towards the Missionary stipend as the Board may consider just.

The Church Wardens or other laymen in each Mission are required to engage yearly for the Parish payment, and they are expected to attend to its collection and remittance. Each Mission is also required to send yearly a subscription, to the best of its ability, for the general

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purposes of the Society, and one for the Clergy Widows' and Orphans' Fund, if the Missionary be a member of it.

The grants made by the D. C. S. during the past year were about \$20,000. About half that sum was received from the S. P. G., and the rest from interest, the income from legacies, and the free will offerings of the Diocese. The subscriptions and collections received during the past year were \$6700. If to this is added the amount of assessments paid to the Missionaries' stipends by Missions receiving grants, viz., \$11,900, the total amount contributed for Home Mission work is \$18,600. The total subscriptions and collections received in 1846 was under \$900, to which must be added the very scanty sums paid by the people direct to the Missionaries, of which there is no record.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF THE S. P. G. GRANT.

This shows that very satisfactory progress has been made; and yet, there is a great deal to be done, and we may not rest-satisfied to stay where we are. For two reasons, that is impossible. First, because of the great uncertainty as to the S. P. G. grant. As Missions among the Heathen are daily calling more and more urgently for help, we, who have been so long assisted, must be ready and willing to do more to maintain our own work. The rule of the S. P. G. is, that a grant shall not be given longer than nine years to any one Mission, save under very exceptional circumstances. In that time, it is expected to become self-supporting. We certainly have much need to be thankful for the generous extension of this rule in our case. But the grant has been reduced from \$26,000 in 1854 to \$10,000 in 1879. *It will certainly be steadily reduced until it is entirely withdrawn.*

Secondly, it is impossible to stand still, because of the increased work that is opening up in every part of the Diocese. New Missions are calling for help to secure the ministrations of the Church. Old Missions, grown too large for one Clergyman to serve, need to be divided. Many Churches that are now closed two or even three Sundays in a month, ought to be open every Sunday. Much valuable time now spent by faithful Missionaries in long journeys, ought to be devoted to the centres of population. All this needs more money. But it does not require more than we might expect, if every man would give regularly and systematically "as God has prospered him." Eighteen thousand dollars seems a good sum to be contributed in the Diocese in one year, but it is quite certain that if every one gave according to his means, the amount would be much greater. The census gives the Church of England population at 45,000, or about 9000 heads of families. At that estimate, the present contributions only average \$2 a family. Probably a weekly offering, in place of the yearly subscription, would soon make a great improvement in this matter. At least it is well worth trying, especially as it is the more Scriptural method.

The following words from the Report of the D. C. S. for 1849, are just as true, and as applicable to the present position of the Society, as when they were written thirty years ago:—

"Beset with difficulties ever attendant upon human institutions, this Society has from its commencement gradually gained strength and

"importance. By offerings sent in to forward its holy object, each  
"succeeding year has seen the sphere of its usefulness enlarge: Aided  
"by its funds, Missionaries have been sent to poor and distant settle-  
"ments where, else, means sufficient for such objects could not be  
"obtained: in such places Churches and Chapels have been built; in  
"several instances the people have been aided in providing a residence  
"for their Pastor. Bibles, Prayer Books, Books of Devotion and reli-  
"gious instruction to a very large amount, have been imported into  
"the Diocese,—furnished in many cases gratuitously, in all at a very  
"low rate. The Reports from the several Local Committees and from  
"the Missionaries aided by the Society shew an increased contribution  
"from almost every Mission. Taking therefore into account the great  
"monetary depression which has so long existed in the Province, all  
"who regard the advancement of this Society must now feel heartily  
"thankful to the Most High, and be cheered on to further exertion by  
"the hope that His blessing attends it. In this holy work the most  
"humble individual may take a part, and the smallest contribution  
"aid. The Society only waits for additional funds in order to extend  
"the ministrations of the Church to every Parish and to every settle-  
"ment in this extensive Diocese. For this the Church calls upon  
"Churchmen to combine. For this she calls upon all, without excep-  
"tion, rich and poor, "to lay by in store as God has prospered them;"  
"and by the same Apostolic rule, she claims, in this holy work, her  
"children's prayers. She urges them to rise above all minor differences  
"of opinion and party prejudice in one holy, united, zealous, self deny-  
"ing effort, and aid in performing that work with which the Church  
"is yet entrusted and is yet responsible, contained in the Redeemer's  
"last command, to 'Preach the Gospel to every creature.'"

NOTE.—Since this was written, the S. P. G. has given notice of a further reduc-  
tion of \$500, commencing January, 1880.

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